WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A suture template for facilitating implantation of a prosthetic valve in a patient, said suture template comprising:

an annular body having a plurality of commissure portions and a plurality of cusp portions, the plurality of commissure portions connected with each other utilizing the plurality of cusp portions to form an annulus having an opening therethrough;

wherein each one of said plurality of commissure portions includes a pair of upstanding arms extending from the cusp portions, the arms coming together to form a tip and the arms defining an elongated downwardly opening notch therebetween for receiving a suture.

2. The suture template of claim 1 wherein each cusp portion is provided with a notch for receiving a suture.

3. The suture template of claim 2 wherein said plurality of commissure portions extending from the cusp portions is three.

4. The suture template of claim 2 wherein the notches for the commissure portions are longer than the notches for the cusp portions.

5. The suture template of claim 2 wherein the cusp portions have concavely curved upper surfaces and wherein the notch for each commissure portion extends upwardly above lowermost points of concavely curved upper surfaces of adjacent cusp portions.

6. The suture template of claim 2 wherein the notch of each cusp portion is centrally located between two commissure portions.

7. The suture template of claim 6 wherein at least one additional notch of each cusp portion is located between each centrally located notch and the notch for each commissure portion.

8. The suture template of claim 1 wherein each cusp portion has a lower end that defines a radially inwardly directed ledge.

9. The suture template of claim 2 wherein each cusp portion has a lower end that defines a radially inwardly directed ledge and the ledge is located on each side of the notch of each cusp portion.

10. The suture template of claim 2 wherein the notch is a downwardly opening notch.

11. The suture template of claim 2 wherein the notch is an upwardly opening notch.

12. A method of attaching a prosthetic valve to a heart of a patient, said method comprising:

placing a suture template having a plurality of notches at a location of the heart that is to receive the prosthetic valve;

attaching a plurality of sutures to the location of the heart by placing the plurality of sutures through the plurality of notches of the suture template and through the location of the heart and

removing the suture template from the location of the heart; and

attaching the plurality of sutures to the prosthetic valve and fixing the prosthetic valve at said location.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the location of the heart that is to receive the prosthetic valve is the aortic root.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein removing the suture template includes cutting the template.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein placing a plurality of sutures includes placing sutures at commissure portions of the template.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein placing a plurality of sutures includes placing sutures at commissure portions of the template and at cusp portions of the template.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein placing the plurality of sutures includes placing sutures at the commissure portions, then at the cusp portions.

18. The method of claim 12 further comprising arranging the plurality of sutures into a suture organizer before attaching the plurality of sutures to the prosthetic valve.

19. The method of claim 12 further comprising sliding the prosthetic valve along the sutures to said location after attaching the plurality of sutures to the prosthetic valve.